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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO CINCPAC

S E C R E T STATE 227211

FOR POLAD NOFORN

FOLLOWING REPEAT MUSCAT 1104 (NOFORN) ACTION SECSTATE SEP 7.

QUOTE: S E C R E T MUSCAT 1104

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINR MU

SUBJECT: VISIT OF DESIGNATED DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF: BIO MATERIAL

1. SALIM ABDULLAH AL-GHAZALI WAS BORN IN SUR, OMAN, IN JULY 1947. HE ATTENDED SCHOOLS IN DOHA, QATAR AND IN CAIRO, EGYPT FROM 1957-65. HE ATTENDED ALGERIAN MILITARY ACADEMY IN 1967-68.

2.AL-GHAZALI SERVED AS LIEUTENANT WITH OMAN CONTINGENT IN TRAQY ARMY FROM 1968-70. FROM 1971 HE HAS BEEN IN SULTAN'S ARMED FORCES, IN SAS INTELLIGENCE (1971-73) AND AS SULTAN'S LIAISON OFFICER TO MINISTRY OF DEFENSE FROM 1973 TO PRESENT, WAS AMONG FIRST NINE OMANIS PROMOTED TO LT. COL. RANK IN MARCH 1976. HE HOLDS DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL OF OMAN, RENAISSANCE MEDAL 1 3RD CLASS (MILITARY) OMAN, AND RENAISSANCE MEDAL - 4TH CLASS - JORDAN. ACCORDING TO ONE SOURCE, HE IS

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PARTNER WITH LEADING OMANI MERCHANT FAMILY (BAHWAN) IN FAST-

GROWING TOYOTA AGENCY.

3. HE WAS MARRIED OCTOBER 4, 1972 IN KUWAIT TO FORMER DASIMAH AL-HAJJI, A KUWAITI. SHE WORKS AS HEAD OF CULTURAL DEPARTMENT, OMAN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, AND IN 1975 WAS AN OMANDEL YO INY CONFERENCE IN MEXICO CITY. SHE SPEAKS ENGLISH WELL. THEY HAVE TWO CHILDREN: SON SALAH, BORN IN KUWAIT 1974 AND A DAUGHTER SHADEN, BORN KUWAIT 1976.

4. AL-GHAZALI'S FATHER, ABDULLAH, HAS BEEN CHIEF OF PROTOCOL IN OMAN FOREIGN MINISTRY FOR SEVERAL YEARS. A BROTHER, AHMAD, IS PROFESSIONAL EDUCATOR AND WAS APPOINTED OMAN'S MINISTER OF EDUCATION IN MARCH 1976. HIS FATHER, FROM SUP, SUCCEEDED IN PRE-1970 DAYS IN GETTING SEVERAL OF HIS CHILDREN OUT OF OMAN FOR THEIR EDUCATION DESPITE PROSCRIPTIONS AGAINST THIS BY REGIME OF SULTAN SA'ID BIN TAIMUR.

5. SALIM AL-GHAZALI IS 5'8" TALL, 148 POUNDS, WITH DARK HAIR AND EYES AND OF MEDIUM BUILD. HE HAS A NARROW FACE AND A CHILDHOOD SCAR IN CENTER OF FOREHEAD AT THE HAIRLINE, AND USUALLY WEARS A BLACK MOUSTACHE. HE SOMETIMES WEARS GLASSES. GHAZALI DOES NOT SMOKE BUT DRINKS SOME PRIVATELY.

6. HE TRAVELED FROM AVERIA TO CHINA ABOUT 1966 FOR SIX MONTHS FOR INSTRUCTION BY ARADPC-SPEAKING CHINESE ON GUERRILLA WARFARE, VISITING CANTON, PEKING AND NANKING. HE DESCRIBED THIS IN 1974 TO MUSCAT EMBOFF AS "BRAINWASHING," AND SAID HE LIKED CHINA BUT FOUND THE REGIME VERY OPPRESSIVE AND THE PEOPLE JOYLESS. HE STATED HE WAS MENTALLY PREPARED TO REJECT THE POLITICAL DOCTRINE BUT SOME OTHERS WITH HIM WERE NOT AND BECAME COMMUNISTS.

7. A UK INTELLIGENCE REPORT STATED GHAZALI WAS ONE TARGET OF OCTOBER 1974 PFLO ASSASSINATION SQUAD DISCOVERED AT HAZM ON WAY TO CAPITAL AREA.

8. INTELLIGENT, EFFICIENT AND APPARENTLY A GOOD ORGANIZER, GHAZALI STANDS OUT HEAD AND SHOULDERS ABOVE ALL OTHER OMANI MILITARY OFFICERS EMBASSY HAS MET. HE HAS GOOD COMMAND OF ENGLISH. RESERVED AT FIRST MEETING, HE WARMS UP QUICKLY AND
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PLAYS HIS PART IN CONVERSATION BEING CANDID IN HIS COMMENTS. HE IS RATHER TOO INDEPENDENT-MINDED AND IMPETUOUS BY NATURE TO GO DOWN WELL AMONG CERTAIN EXPATRIATE ADVISORS CLOSE TO HIM, BUT IS HIGHLY REGARDED BY SAF COMMANDER PERKINS. THOUGH HE HAS CLOSE ASSOCIATION WITH SULTAN QABOOS AND PROFESSES COMPLETE LOYALTY, HE HAS NO SEPARATE BASE OF POWER AND HAS BEEN CLOSE TO RESIGNING FROM MILITARY ONCE OR TWICE.

9. GHAZALI WAS A HAWK ON CONDUCTING OHOFAR WAR, STATING TO AMBASSADOR AND USG VISITOR IN EARLY 1975 THAT OMAN AND ALLIES SHOULD TAKE THE WAR TO PDY BY BOMBING ADEN ITSELF. IN 1975-76 WINTER HE FOUND HIMSELF SENT TO RAINING COURSE IN UK IN WHAT SOME HAVE DESCRIBED AS "TEMPORARY EXILE", HAVING CHALLENGED VIEWS OF SULTAN'S EXPATRIATE ADVISORS OVER ISSUE OF OIL PCUCING (GHAZALI FAVORED COMPROMISE AGREEMENT WITH PDO RATHER THAN RISK STALEMATE OR PUSH PDO TOO FAR.) HE HAS EXPRESSED ANTI-BRITISH SENTIMENTS TO US, STATING THAT UK INTERESTS IN

OMAN ARE BEST SERVED BY CONTINUING LEVEL OF UNREST AND UNCERTAINTY. HE FEARS CONTINUING TRIBAL UNREST IN DHOFAR, AND THAT UNLESS OMANGOV REHABILITATION EFFORTS ARE PROSECUTED MORE VIGOROUSLY THERE WILL BE RESURGENCE OF GUERRILLA ACTIVITY IN 3 OR 4 YEARS. GHAZALI HAS BEEN OUTSPOKEN WITH US IN OPPOSITION TO OMAN'S JAGUAR-RAPIER AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM PURCHASE. HE HAS DISPARAGED USE INTERNAL SECURITY CAPABILITY AND PREDICTED FUTURE PFLO ACTIVITY AGAINST NORTHERN OMAN USING UAE AS "SAFEHAVEN."

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